

# The Friends' Quarterly Newsletter of the Enfield Shaker Museum

Sharing history and hospitality.



Fall 2016

## Upcoming Events

For more details, visit our website at  
[www.shakermuseum.org](http://www.shakermuseum.org)

- November 5     **Handmaking Paper Books**
- and 6     **Workshop**
- November 9     **Preservation Wednesday**
- November 10    **Gifts from the Kitchen**
- Workshop**
- November 13    **2016 Annual Meeting**
- November 20    **Shaker Sing**
- November 23    **Preservation Wednesday**
  
- December 3-17 **Festival of Trees**
- December 4     **Moravian Star Making**
- Workshop**
- December 7     **Preservation Wednesday**
- December 10    **Traditional Tree Ornament**
- Making Workshop**
- December 10    **Gift Drawing Workshop**
- December 11    **Gift Box Making**
- Workshop**
- December 11    **Holiday Cookie Fair**
- December 17    **Festival of Trees Gala**
- Reception**

**Holiday shopping at the Museum Gift Shop - Daily 10 am - 4 pm.**

## And This is the Order of your Retiring Rooms: A Discussion of the Archetypal Enfield Retiring Room and the Holy Orders of 1841

by Kyle Sandler, Education Program Coordinator

One of the most significant texts to the legal layout of the Shaker societies in the New Hampshire Bishopric is the Extracts Adapted to the Societies at Canterbury and Enfield, From the Holy Orders of the Church Written by Father Joseph to the Elders of the Church at New Lebanon, February 18, 1841. Though, The Holy Orders were meant to apply to all Shaker societies, this extract is unique in its focus on the New Hampshire Bishopric. From the perspective of the Enfield Shaker community, 1841 was a crucial year represented by the completion of the largest Shaker structure, the Great Stone Dwelling. By finishing this dwelling house, the Enfield Shakers created an environment in which there was a need for the production of material culture such as furniture. In the Extracts, the compiler describes how the archetypal retiring room should be set-up according to the Central Ministry at New Lebanon, NY:

*And this is the order after which your retiring rooms shall be furnished. Bed stands, painted green, Comforters to be of a brownish shade, Blankets for outside spreads, blue and white, but no checked. Plain splint, list or tape bottom Chairs are preferable to any other kind. One rocking chair in a room is sufficient, except where the aged reside. A good and convenient table, a round stand; One good looking glass, which ought not to exceed eighteen makes in length and twelve in width, with a plain frame an inch and a half wide. A looking glass larger than this never ought to come into the Church.<sup>1</sup>*



Great Stone Dwelling, Rm 1 c. 1900

*(continued on page 2.)*

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Enfield, NH 03748  
(603) 632-4346  
[www.shakermuseum.org](http://www.shakermuseum.org)  
[info@shakermuseum.org](mailto:info@shakermuseum.org)

## In this issue...

Executive Director's Message – Summer Education Programs  
GSD Window Restoration – Recent Acquisitions  
2016 Harvest Festival – Second Family Shaker Cemetery

# Executive Director's Message

Dear Friends,

Last month as I wrote this letter, the leaves were beginning to fall from the trees. Today, they are gone and it is bitter cold outside. Winter is on its way and yesterday morning a few snow flurries were in the air.

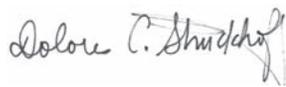
Today is also Preservation Wednesday and our Historic Housekeeper, **Bonnie Lambert** and I have just arranged a lunch of hot soup, salad, bread and apples for our staff and volunteers. Today's volunteers include **Dick Dabrowski, Cathy and Joe Gasparik, Chris Wadsworth** and **Lynn and Paul Waehler** who are working outside removing small trees and brush from the south side of the stream near the West Barn; and **Colin and Mardy High** and **Carolyn Smith** who are cleaning a curatorial storage space in the Laundry/Dairy with our curator, **Michael O'Connor**.

You too, could be part of these volunteer efforts by joining us any Wednesday. A community meal is always provided! Our Preservation Wednesday volunteers have become part of the fabric of the Museum since we began this bi-weekly program nearly five years ago. It has become so popular we now offer it every week.

What makes Preservation Wednesdays so popular? I believe it is because the people who participate genuinely believe in what we are doing here, but equally as important, they have found a sense of belonging and a connection that goes beyond preserving the history of our site. Preservation Wednesdays are one way we are using our site to make people's lives better, not only our visitors and our staff, but our volunteers too!

I hope everyone reading this newsletter, will find their own sense of place with us and help us continue to save and interpret this historic site in the days, months and years ahead.

Thank you all!



## 1841 Holy Orders of the Church *(continued from page 1)*

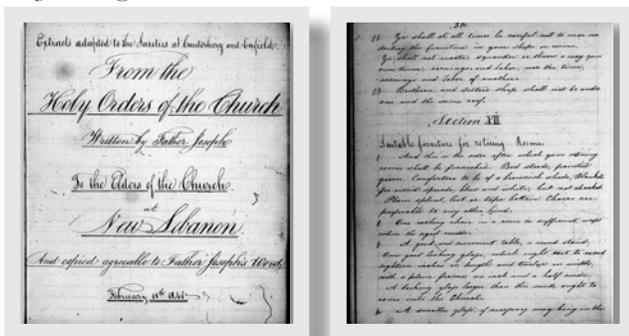
The details in this section demonstrate the aspects of material use focused on in the various editions of the Shaker Millennial Laws. Additionally, this passage represents a valuable primary source document for scholars to establish the types of furniture, textiles, and miscellaneous items that may have been found in the Great Stone Dwelling retiring rooms. In this same section of the manuscript text, the reader will also find a passage reinforcing which literary works would be acceptable for a Shaker bedroom to contain. Below is a quote from this section of the manuscript:

*There should be provided for every room a suitable number of the following books, according to the judgment of those who stand in care. Bibles, Kentucky Revivals, Testaments, Plain Evidences Christ's Second Appearing, Millennial Church, Testimony of the Ancients of the People, Dictionary, Grammar, Spelling Book, [Fayette] Mace's Dialogues. These are sufficient to be placed in any retiring room.<sup>2</sup>*

Together, these two quotes represent a small portion of the information that can be gleaned from the Extracts in terms of its descriptions of the practices that were supposed to be followed at the Canterbury and Enfield Shaker communities. Additionally, this work provides a primary source that may be compared with other manuscripts and images demonstrating the actual use of material culture in Shaker retiring rooms. Among the most interesting aspects of Shaker society is how individual Shaker villages and families deviated from the established rules designed for their communities. It will be up to future scholarship to discern the differences between the retiring rooms described in the Holy Orders and those that actually served the Church Family Enfield brothers and sisters.

<sup>1</sup>Extracts Adapted to the Societies at Canterbury and Enfield, From the Holy Orders of the Church Written by Father Joseph to the Elders of the Church at New Lebanon, February 18, 1841, Shaker Manuscripts: 1723-1952, reel 79, box 237, volume 155a, Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, OH.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.



1841 Holy Orders of the Church (Right - Cover, Left - Page 34)

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**2016 ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Sunday, November 13**  
**1:45 PM Great Stone Dwelling**  
**Special Presentation:**  
*Enfield Shaker Furniture: New Insights*  
 by Richard Dabrowski

## Recent Acquisitions

by Michael O'Connor, Curator

The Enfield Shaker Museum is continually acquiring objects, books, archival materials, and photographs to help us further understand and interpret the lives of the Enfield Shakers. Over the last year we have acquired a number of kitchen tools and implements that give us insight into work processes of the Sisters who prepared the food for the three families.

There is much research to do on each individual item, but it is likely that many of these implements were manufactured in the World and purchased by the Shakers for use in the kitchens, reflecting evolving economic changes in the late 19th Century. It is especially significant that most of these items were acquired from one family, who has owned them since the 1920's when they were purchased from the Enfield Shakers around the time of the closing of the community.

Shown in the photo are an apple slicer and corer, apple peeler, assorted wooden items including a masher, mallet, dasher, and rolling pin, tin dippers, measures and scoops, skimmers, and several toasting forks. Individually they are interesting tools of the Sister's culinary trades, collectively they help us begin to paint the picture of the daily lives of the Sisters and Brothers who called this community home.



*Enfield Shaker food preparation implements recently acquired by the Museum.*

## 2016 Harvest Festival: Reflection

by Kyle Sandler, Education Program Coordinator

First, I would like to thank the Education Committee and all the volunteers and staff for helping to make the 2016 Harvest Festival a successful and enjoyable educational event. This year's Harvest Festival included a variety of craft activities, crafts and herbal demonstrations, music, and items produced from the Museum's herb gardens. The overall mood of the attendees was positive with many new smiling faces including young families with their children. **Fun with Ponies** said that this was the first year that they not only needed all six ponies, but that the ponies needed a break due to the volume of children. Overall, the Harvest Festival is a wonderful event that demonstrates how Shaker history and museums can be relevant in today's increasingly busy world.

On behalf of the Museum, I would like to give a special thanks to our sponsors and supporters: **Cardigan Veterinary Clinic**, the **Charles E. and Edna T. Brundage Foundation**, **Dorr Mill Store**, and the **Lemont K. Richardson Foundation**. Without supporters like these, the Enfield Shaker Museum would not be able to put on wonderful educational events such as the Harvest Festival.



*Goat milking demonstration at the 2016 Harvest Festival.*



*Making potpourri with the Museum Village Gardeners.*

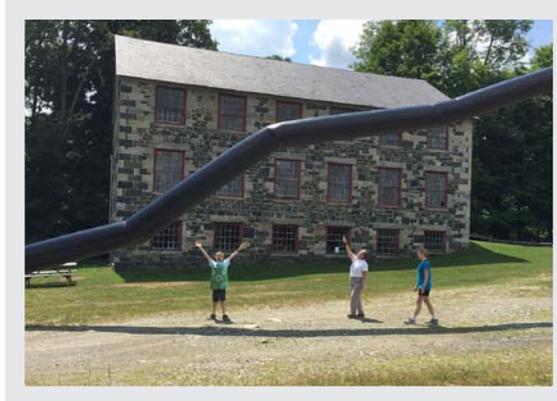
# Summer Educational Programs Update

by Kyle Sandler, Education Program Coordinator

This year our summer educational offerings included **Inspired by the Shakers: Children's Summer Camp** and two **Field Ecology Courses**. These programs allowed students age nine through eighteen to gain a greater understanding of the Shakers and the natural world around them.

Inspired by the Shakers was offered in partnership with the AVA Gallery and Art Center in Lebanon, NH. This innovative and hands on interdisciplinary program led by Museum volunteers **Nan Munsey** and **Mary Ann Haagen**, allowed participants to look at the Shakers through the lens of not just history, but also material culture. The curriculum focused on the 1854 Cow Barn and the ways in which that structure permeated all aspects of Enfield Shaker life. Participants started with a tour of the barn given by curator, **Michael O'Connor**. The three central themes of the camp were Shaker art, architecture, and agriculture. Focusing on these three themes, students were able to make connections between the various aspects of Shaker life. Camp activities included cooking Shaker recipes, working with herbs in the garden, and completing two major art projects.

The other main educational summer program was the Field Ecology course for High School and Junior High School stu-



*Junior High School Field Ecology Course at ESM.*

dents. The Field Ecology course is a place-based program that can be completed for high school credit, which allows students to participate in the type of scientific field work difficult to perform in a normal classroom setting. The High School session focused on topics including biodiversity, historical changes in the local landscape, and sustainability. During each session, students worked on a different experiment such as recording scientific data and a creating a transect map of the Mill Pond. Though similar in structure, the Junior High School course focused on the importance of matter and energy in local ecosystems. As a final project for the course, students were able to complete a mystery quest that incorporated science and Shaker History. Both of these programs allowed students to gain a greater understanding of how the Shaker experience can still influence the society of today and provide a source of interdisciplinary learning.

On behalf of the Museum, I would like to thank the following foundations for making the above summer programs a reality: **Charles. E and Edna T. Brundage Foundation**, **Hypertherm Hope Foundation**, and **Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation**.

## Geophysical Survey of Shaker Buildings Conducted at Enfield Shaker Museum

Dartmouth Anthropology Professor **Jesse Casana** has been leading a team doing a geophysical survey on the former location of the Enfield Shaker Village Church Family Trustee's Office, Back Store and Horse Barn. Undergraduates, graduate and post-doctoral students participated in the survey using a magnetometer to detect magnetic anomalies indicating subterranean ferrous metals. The team also used a drone to photograph the area using visible light as well as thermal imaging to identify the locations of the former buildings foundations and surrounding features.



*Dr. Jesse Casana using a magnetometer during a geophysical survey.*

**Enfield Shaker Museum ♦ 447 NH Route 4A ♦ Enfield, NH 03748**

**Executive Director**

Dolores C. Struckhoff

Enfield Shaker Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational institution whose mission is to protect, enhance, and utilize its historical structures, landscape and Shaker cultural heritage.

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## Great Stone Dwelling Window Restoration Project: An interview with Jade Mortimer, Window Restorer

*Q. How did you get interested in window restoration and where did you learn about the various techniques, tools and materials that you use?*

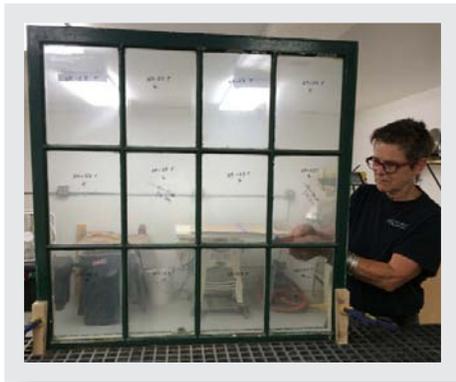
A. In 1996, I was working as a contractor in Provincetown, MA, the new owners of the ‘oldest standing house in Provincetown’ built in 1746 put out a request for bids for a full house restoration of their ‘full cape’. I was the only bidder to agree that the windows could be salvaged and restored and I was offered the job. A few weeks later I attended an international window restoration conference in Washington, DC. I absorbed a lot of information, got very excited about windows and made numerous connections with other preservationists. I then started to read every old window book I could get my hands on. It’s been all preservation, scraping and setting glass since!

*Q. Tell me about a favorite window project, why the project was (is) important to you, what you enjoyed most about working on the project, and at least one thing you learned from working on the project.*

A. Aside from the Great Stone Dwelling, the Moffatt-Ladd House (1763) in Portsmouth, NH was especially rewarding, the history of the building and its occupants are well documented and the director is a solid supporter of preservation...a number of window panes had been etched with dates, names and verses...one pane etched with a poem signed by a child and dated ‘1798’ had been broken into 9 pieces. I was able to glue it back together and still have the etching legible. Upon removing the paint, we discovered (this is what I ‘learned’) that the original color of the sash exterior was black rather than the white color they had been painted for generations. Following restoration, the sash were painted black at the exterior with at least 9 different interior colors.

*Q. What aspect of working on the Great Stone Dwelling windows has been the most interesting or significant to you.*

A. The quality and sturdiness of the sash are impressive. The hand made sash clearly exhibit the sash maker’s scored lines for precise alignment of mortise and tenon joints. A significant number of panes are ‘crown glass’ which is curved and displays concentric ‘swirls’ indicating the method of twirling the hot glass at the end of a pipe into a large disc. Each pane opening has been scribed for an individual pane of glass’ curvature. That takes expertise, patience and good sharp well cared for hand tools. There are numerous com-



*Jade Mortimer of Heartwood Restoration examines window sash from the GSD.*

ponents that exhibit old cursive writing in pencil indicating a room’s use or past occupant’s name. Some of these discoveries solved the mystery regarding the Shaker numbering system.

*Q. Please give me a brief description of the process you are using on the GSD windows.*

A. We use a steam method to remove the glass and putty. Three to four sash are placed in a steam cabinet for 1-2 hours. Workers then have 10-15 minutes to remove the putty and glass before the putty re-hardens. Rotation of sash begins until all the glass is removed, a task that takes 2-3 hours per sash. Another 2-3 hours is spent removing the paint to bare wood using a heatgun over a HEPA downdraft table. Repairs are made as necessary then the entire sash is treated with a blend of boiled linseed oil and balsam fir turpentine and, after that, a coat of oil based primer is applied. The glass is then reset using a traditional boiled linseed oil glazing putty and allowed to sit for 5-7 days while the putty skins over. The sash and glass are cleaned and prepped for two coats of finish paint. A final cleaning of the glass and the sash are ready to be transported and reinstalled.

FUN FACTS: over two miles of putty will be removed and new putty installed; 18,000 new points will be installed by hand to hold the glass in place; 10 gallons of paint will be applied to the sash; once the approximately 150 window openings have been completed, and about 16,000 steps will have been ascended and descended all while carrying heavy tools and sash!



*Left: Unrestored muntins in the Great Stone Dwelling. Right: The same muntins after restoration by Heartwood Restoration.*

*Q. Tell me something you would like people to know about Heartwood Restoration.*

A. Our motto is ‘an unsurpassed commitment to quality’. I like to think that we employ ‘best practices’ in every phase of the restoration process and spare no expense when it comes to using the very highest quality products and tools. I thoroughly enjoy holding workshops that leave folks really appreciating their old window sash and teaching them how to undertake basic restoration work on their own. I am fortunate to have found my professional calling in this hands-on preservation trade!

# Second Family Cemetery Gets a Facelift

In the last newsletter, we talked about the transfer of ownership of the Second Family Shaker Cemetery from the town of Enfield to the Enfield Shaker Museum. This fall **Rob Gregg**, founder and president of Vine Lake Preservation Trust, a nonprofit charitable organization promoting the cultural, historical, and natural resources in Medfield, Massachusetts conducted a Gravestone Preservation Workshop at the Museum. He is directly tied to the Enfield Shaker Community and Medfield's cemetery through his seventh cousin, *Marinda Melissa Keniston*, an earlier Enfield Shaker, who is buried in Medfield.

Following instruction and demonstrations of proper procedures to use when cleaning historic gravestones, the workshop's eleven participants spent the day cleaning headstones in

the Second Family Shaker Cemetery. The results of their efforts are dramatic.

The next step is to work on grounds maintenance and fence repair. Going forward the headstones will need annual minor cleaning, if you are interested in being part of this effort please contact the Museum.

With headstones in place, the Second Family Shaker Cemetery is a resource for genealogical research and a destination for Shaker enthusiasts who want to see one of the remaining Shaker cemeteries with individual headstones. It is a special piece of Shaker history, so take a moment and visit the Second Family cemetery the next time you are in Enfield.

## Museum Wish List

A special thank you to everyone who made a donation in response to our last "Museum Wish List".

External hard drive (1 or 2 TB)  
42" Flat Screen TV for video room

For more details call (603)632-4346 or email [info@shakermuseum.org](mailto:info@shakermuseum.org).



*Charmian Proskauer cleaning the headstone of her Shaker relative Mary Ann Curtis.*



*Mary Gasiorowski proudly shows off the newly cleaned headstone of Mary Jane Thurston.*



*Headstone of Shaker Sister Eunice Huntington before cleaning.*



*Workshop instructor Rob Gregg demonstrating headstone cleaning techniques.*

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Enfield Shaker Museum



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